

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A printing system, comprising:

a printing apparatus;

a terminal apparatus for transmitting information including a request to execute a specific print job and for receiving information;

notification means for notifying a registered user of said printing apparatus of information on authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus to execute any print job prior to the transmission of the request to execute the specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus, wherein the notification means is unaware of the specific print job when notifying the registered user, and wherein the registered user is unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus; and

a network connecting said printing apparatus, said terminal apparatus, and said notification means so that information transmission and reception in the system is performed through an electrical signal via said network.

2. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network is a local area network.

3. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said printing apparatus comprises said notification means.

4. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification means notifies the user of the information on the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus through said terminal apparatus.

5. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification means notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when the change is effected.

6. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification means notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is newly introduced to the system.

7. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

setting means for setting the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus; and  
determination means for determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job information included in the print job transmitted from said terminal apparatus and on the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus,

wherein said setting means and said determination means are connected to said network.

8. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising usage authority management means for managing the authority of the user to use said printing

apparatus, said usage authority management means connected to said network and comprising said notification means.

9. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said setting means, said determination means, said notification means, and said usage authority management means are realized by a processing operation of a central processing unit.

10. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 7, wherein:  
said terminal apparatus comprises:

inquiry means for transmitting to said determination means an inquiry as to whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus; and

presentation means for presenting the user with a result of the inquiry received from said notification means; and

said notification means notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus upon receiving the inquiry transmitted from said inquiry means.

11. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry when said terminal apparatus is activated.

12. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry before said terminal apparatus transmits the request to execute the specific print job to said printing apparatus.

13. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus is set for each of functions of said printing apparatus.

14. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises means for modifying printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

15. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises means for modifying a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

16. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises means for requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

17. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises means for requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

18. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus obtains the information on the authority of the user set for each of the functions of said printing apparatus and presents the user with the obtained information before transmitting the request to execute the specific print job to said printing apparatus.

19. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus, comprising:  
a central processing unit controlling an operation of the entire printing apparatus; and  
notification means for notifying a registered user of the printing apparatus of information on authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job prior to transmission of a request to execute a specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus, wherein the notification means is unaware of the specific print job when notifying the registered user, and wherein the registered user is unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus.

20. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said notification means is connected to a terminal apparatus via a network and notifies the user of the information on the authority thereof to use the printing apparatus through the terminal apparatus.

21. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the network is a local area network.

22. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, further comprising setting means for setting the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus, said setting means being connected to the network.

23. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said notification means notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when the change is effected.

24. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said notification means notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is newly introduced to the system.

25. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said notification means notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus upon receiving an inquiry transmitted from the terminal apparatus.

26. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

27. (Currently Amended) A terminal apparatus, comprising:  
a central processing unit controlling an operation of the entire terminal apparatus;  
inquiry means for transmitting an inquiry as to whether a registered user of a printing apparatus has authority to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job; and  
presentation means for presenting the registered user with a result of the inquiry,

wherein the terminal apparatus is configured to receive information as to the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job, prior to transmission of a request to execute a specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus such that the information as to the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus is determined without knowledge of the specific print job, and wherein the registered user is unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus.

28. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said inquiry means and said presentation means are connected via a network to the printing apparatus, determination means for determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job information included in the specific print job transmitted from the terminal apparatus and on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus, and notification means for notifying the user of information on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus so that said inquiry means transmits the inquiry to the determination means and said presentation means receives the result from the notification means.

29. (Original) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the network is a local area network.

30. (Original) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry when the terminal apparatus is activated.

31. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry before the terminal apparatus transmits the request to execute the specific print job to the printing apparatus.

32. (Original) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

33. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for modifying printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

34. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for modifying a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

35. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

36. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the specific print



job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

37. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein the information on the authority of the user set for each of the functions of the printing apparatus is obtained and presented to the user before the request to execute the specific print job is transmitted to the printing apparatus.

38. (Currently Amended) A printing method, comprising :

(a) setting authority of a registered user of a printing apparatus to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job; and

(b) notifying the registered user of information on the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job through an electrical signal via a network, prior to transmission of a request to execute a specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus, wherein the setting step is performed without knowledge of the specific print job, and wherein the registered user is unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus.

39. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the network is a local area network.

40. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the printing apparatus performs said step (b).

41. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of the information on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus through a terminal apparatus.

42. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus when the change is effected.

43. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus when the printing apparatus is newly introduced.

44. (Previously Presented) The printing method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the step of (c) determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job information included in the specific print job and on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus.

45. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said steps (a) through (c) are performed by a processing operation of a central processing unit.

46. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

(d) inquiring whether the user has the authority to use the printing apparatus; and

(e) presenting the user with a result of said step (d),  
wherein said step (b) notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use the  
printing apparatus when said step (d) is performed.

47. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said steps (d)  
and (e) are performed by a terminal apparatus.

48. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said step (d) is  
performed when a terminal apparatus is activated.

49. (Previously Presented) The printing method as claimed in claim 46, further  
comprising the step of (f) transmitting the request to execute the specific print job to the  
printing apparatus, wherein said step (d) is performed before said step (f).

50. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 49, wherein said step (f) is  
performed by a terminal apparatus.

51. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 49, wherein said steps (d)  
through (f) are performed by a processing operation of a central processing unit. through an  
electrical signal via the network.

52. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the authority of  
the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

53. (Previously Presented) The printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) modifying printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

54. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 53, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

55. (Previously Presented) The printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) modifying a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

56. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 55, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

57. (Previously Presented) The printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

58. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 57, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

59. (Previously Presented) The printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

60. (Original) The printing method as claimed in claim 59, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

61. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having encoded therein a program for printing, said program causing a computer to execute the steps of:

(a) setting authority of a registered user of a printing apparatus to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job; and

(b) notifying the registered user of information on the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job through an electrical signal via a network, prior to transmission of a request to execute a specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus, wherein the setting step is performed without knowledge of the specific print job, and wherein the registered user is unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus.

62. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein the network is a local area network.

63. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein the computer causes the printing apparatus to perform said step (b).

64. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of the information on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus through a terminal apparatus.

65. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus when the change is effected.

66. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus when the printing apparatus is newly introduced.

67. (Previously Presented) The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (c) determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job information included in the specific print job and on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus.

68. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 67, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the steps of:

- (d) inquiring whether the user has the authority to use the printing apparatus; and
- (e) presenting the user with a result of said step (d),

wherein said step (b) notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use the printing apparatus when said step (d) is performed.

69. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said steps (d) and (e).

70. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein said step (d) is performed when a terminal apparatus is activated.

71. (Previously Presented) The storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) transmitting the request to execute the specific print job to the printing apparatus, wherein said step (d) is performed before said step (f).

72. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 71, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f).

73. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 71, wherein said steps (d) through (f) are performed through an electrical signal via the network.

74. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

75. (Previously Presented) The storage medium as claimed in claim 74, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) modifying printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

76. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 75, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f).

77. (Previously Presented) The storage medium as claimed in claim 74, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) modifying a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

78. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 77, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f).

79. (Previously Presented) The storage medium as claimed in claim 74, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

80. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 79, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f).



81. (Previously Presented) The storage medium as claimed in claim 74, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

82. (Original) The storage medium as claimed in claim 81, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f).

83. (Currently Amended) A printing system, comprising:

a printing apparatus;

a terminal apparatus for transmitting information including a request to execute a specific print job and receiving information;

a notification part notifying a registered user of said printing apparatus of information on authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus to execute any print job prior to the transmission of the request to execute the specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus; and

a network connecting said printing apparatus, said terminal apparatus, and said notification part so that information transmission and reception in the system is performed through an electrical signal via said network, wherein the notification part is unaware of the specific print job when notifying the registered user, and wherein the registered user is unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus.

84. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 83, wherein said network is a local area network.

85. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 83, wherein said printing apparatus comprises said notification part.

86. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 83, wherein said notification part notifies the user of the information on the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus through said terminal apparatus.

87. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 83, wherein said notification part notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when the change is effected.

88. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 83, wherein said notification part notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is newly introduced to the system.

89. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 83, further comprising:

a setting part setting the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus; and  
a determination part determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job information included in the specific print job transmitted from said terminal apparatus and on the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus,

wherein said setting part and said determination part are connected to said network.

90. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 89, further comprising a usage authority management part managing the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus, said usage authority management part connected to said network and comprising said notification part.

91. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 90, wherein said setting part, said determination part, said notification part, and said usage authority management part are realized by a processing operation of a central processing unit.

92. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 89, wherein:  
said terminal apparatus comprises:

an inquiry part transmitting to said determination part an inquiry as to whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus; and

a presentation part presenting the user with a result of the inquiry received from said notification part; and

said notification part notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus upon receiving the inquiry transmitted from said inquiry part.

93. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 92, wherein said inquiry part transmits the inquiry when said terminal apparatus is activated.

94. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 92, wherein said inquiry part transmits the inquiry before said terminal apparatus transmits the request to execute the specific print job to said printing apparatus.

95. (Original) The printing system as claimed in claim 89, wherein the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus is set for each of functions of said printing apparatus.

96. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 95, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises a part modifying printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

97. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 95, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises a part modifying a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

98. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 95, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises a part requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

99. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 95, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises a part requesting the user to modify a printing condition

of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

100. (Previously Presented) The printing system as claimed in claim 95, wherein said terminal apparatus obtains the information on the authority of the user set for each of the functions of said printing apparatus and presents the user with the obtained information before transmitting the request to execute the specific print job to said printing apparatus.

101. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus, comprising:  
a central processing unit controlling an operation of the entire printing apparatus; and  
a notification part notifying a registered user of the printing apparatus of information on authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job prior to transmission of a request to execute a specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus, wherein the notification part is unaware of the specific print job when notifying the registered user, and wherein the registered user is unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus.

102. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 101, wherein said notification part is connected to a terminal apparatus via a network and notifies the user of the information on the authority thereof to use the printing apparatus through the terminal apparatus.

103. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 102, wherein the network is a local area network.

104. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 102, further comprising a setting part setting the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus, said setting part being connected to the network.

105. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 102, wherein said notification part notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when the change is effected.

106. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 102, wherein said notification part notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is newly introduced to the system.

107. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 102, wherein said notification part notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus upon receiving an inquiry transmitted from the terminal apparatus.

108. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 107, wherein the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

109. (Currently Amended) A terminal apparatus, comprising:  
a central processing unit controlling an operation of the entire terminal apparatus;

an inquiry part transmitting an inquiry as to whether a registered user of a printing apparatus has authority to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job; and  
a presentation part presenting the registered user with a result of the inquiry,  
wherein the terminal apparatus is configured to receive information as to the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job, prior to transmission of a request to execute a specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus such that the information as to the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus is determined without knowledge of the specific print job, and wherein the registered user is unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus.

110. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 109, wherein said inquiry part and said presentation part are connected via a network to the printing apparatus, a determination part determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job information included in the specific print job transmitted from the terminal apparatus and on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus, and a notification part notifying the user of information on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus so that said inquiry part transmits the inquiry to the determination part and said presentation part receives the result from the notification part.

111. (Original) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 110, wherein the network is a local area network.

112. (Original) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 109, wherein said inquiry part transmits the inquiry when the terminal apparatus is activated.

113. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 109, wherein said inquiry part transmits the inquiry before the terminal apparatus transmits the request to execute the specific print job to the printing apparatus.

114. (Original) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 109, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

115. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 114, further comprising a part modifying printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

116. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 114, further comprising a part modifying a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

117. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 114, further comprising a part requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.



118. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 114, further comprising a part requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

119. (Previously Presented) The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 114, wherein the information on the authority of the user set for each of the functions of the printing apparatus is obtained and presented to the user before the request to execute the specific print job is transmitted to the printing apparatus.